

illegal votes to be given, (and if a governor, senator, member of the house of delegates or judge,) that I will not directly or indirectly receive the profits or any part of the profits of any other office during the time of my acting as —, and that I owe paramount allegiance to the constitution and government of the United States, any law or ordinance of the general assembly or State convention of Maryland to the contrary notwithstanding; that I will defend the said constitution and government of the United States to the last extremity, against every enemy, and that since the commencement of the civil war and rebellion, I have never in any manner either directly or indirectly by word or deed given aid or encouragement to those in rebellion against the United States, that I have never sympathized with them, nor desired their success, but have uniformly and at all times denounced them not only as rebels against and traitors to their country, but as enemies of the human race."

Mr. STIRLING had submitted the following amendment to the amendment, which was the pending question:

Strike out all after the word "that," in first line of amendment, and insert:

"That I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the office of — according to the constitution and laws of this State, and that since — I have not in any manner violated the provisions of the present, or of the late constitution, in relation to the bribery of voters, or preventing legal votes or procuring illegal votes to be given (and if a governor, senator, member of the house of delegates, or judge,) that I will not directly or indirectly receive the profits or any part of the profits of any other office during the term of my acting as —; I do further swear or affirm that I will bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the constitution and laws thereof, and that I will bear true allegiance to the United States, and support, protect and defend the constitution, laws and government thereof, as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of this or any State to the contrary notwithstanding; that I have never directly or indirectly by word, act or deed given any aid, comfort or encouragement to those in rebellion against the United States or the lawful authorities thereof, but that I have been truly and loyally on the side of the United States against those in armed rebellion against the United States; and I do further swear or affirm that I will, to the best of my abilities, protect and defend the Union of the United States, and not allow the same to be broken up and dissolved, or the government thereof to be destroyed under any circumstances, if in my power to prevent it, and that I will at all times discountenance and oppose all political combinations having

for their object such dissolution or destruction."

Mr. THURSTON. When the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore city was offered, there seemed to be so many objections made to it that I felt it my duty to examine it particularly; the result of which convinced me of its great fitness for the purpose for which it is intended. If gentlemen will examine it critically they will find that there is nothing unusual in it when we consider the circumstances in which we are now placed. It is usual and customary to prescribe qualifications for persons holding office. What are the qualifications prescribed by this section, which are so objectionable? The first part of the oath prescribes "that I will to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the office of —;" "that I have not in any manner violated the provisions of the present or of the late constitution in relation to bribery of voters," &c; which are the customary provisions. It will be necessary also to adopt the following clause, that "I will not directly or indirectly receive the profits, or any part of the profits of any other office during the time of my acting as —." To that part of the oath I think there can be no objection.

Then we come down to the portion at which gentlemen seem to take great umbrage: "I do further swear or affirm that I will bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the constitution and laws thereof, and that I will bear true allegiance to the United States, and support, protect and defend the constitution, laws and government thereof, as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of this or any State to the contrary notwithstanding."

Certainly this part of the oath is entirely consistent with the views held by the majority of this house with regard to paramount allegiance. Gentlemen who look to States' rights of course will not agree with that point; but the States' rights doctrine is inconsistent with our government, and it seems to me to be the most preposterous thing in the world. It is destructive, and no government in the world can ever maintain a firm position with the doctrine of States' rights in it. In the argument we have had here on both sides of the house, gentlemen have been unable to agree. But we start from different stand points. Some look at this from the States' rights view of the question and base their argument upon that, and look to that always as an end to be accomplished. — Those upon our side of the house acknowledge our paramount allegiance to the Union; it is that paramount allegiance which we hold first and above all, and wish to secure. We think in this way we secure the safety and happiness of the people of our own State, and secure the national government by holding it